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To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards (ETBs).

Revisions to the Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus and the introduction of a revised specification for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to inform post-primary schools of changes to the Interim Syllabus for Leaving Certificate Arabic and the timeline for the introduction of a revised specification for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies.

For further information related to other curricular related developments at senior cycle, see [Circular 0061/2019](#): Curriculum-related developments at Senior Cycle with particular reference to school years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, dated 24 October 2019.

2. Changes to the Leaving Certificate Arabic Interim Syllabus

One of the aims of the Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus is to encourage students to enjoy and appreciate a variety of language styles. The inclusion of set texts from Arabic literature is a feature of the syllabus which helps to achieve this aim and to reflect the variety of students taking the subject. These prescribed texts include extracts from the Koran; classical Arabic poetry; and modern Arabic literature.

2.1. Details of the change

A minor adjustment is being made to the Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus to improve student choice in examination of prescribed materials. The syllabus content is not being changed.

This adjustment is effective immediately and will apply to all students who will sit the Leaving Certificate Arabic examination in 2020 and thereafter.

This change relates to the heading 'Part 2' on page 14 of the syllabus. Precise details of this change are provided in the appendix to this circular.

Students will now have the option to answer on any two of the three prescribed areas of literature on the course, namely the Koran; classical Arabic poetry; and modern Arabic literature. Previously all students were required to answer the section relating to the Koran, and then choose whether to answer the section on classical Arabic poetry or modern Arabic literature.

This change will be reflected in the instructions to candidates in the Leaving Certificate examinations in Arabic for 2020 and thereafter.

The revised Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus is available on <https://curriculumonline.ie/>.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) will separately commence a full review of the Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus in 2020.

3. Revised Specification for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies

A revised specification for Leaving Certificate Classical Studies has been prepared. This new specification will be introduced for students entering fifth year from September 2021. The first Leaving Certificate examination on the revised specification will take place in 2023.

Implementation of the revised specification will be supported by a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provided by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST).

The revised specification will be available on <https://curriculumonline.ie> from September 2020.

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Appendix 1 – Changes to the Leaving Certificate Arabic Interim Syllabus

As outlined in section 2 above, changes are being made to the Leaving Certificate Arabic Interim Syllabus and is effective for all students who will sit the Leaving Certificate Arabic examination in 2020 and thereafter. This section provides both the old and revised text for the interim syllabus.

Old text (p. 14, Section 5 – Description of Papers):

Part 2 will consist of three sections. The first section, to be answered by all candidates, will comprise an extract from the Koran, followed by two questions. The second and third sections, between which the candidates will be asked to choose, will consist respectively of a portion of classical Arabic verse, followed by two questions, and an extract from a work of modern Arabic prose, followed by 2 questions. In both cases, one question will bear directly on the text presented, while the other question will be of a more contextual nature.

Revised text (p. 14, Section 5 – Description of Papers):

Part 2 will consist of three sections. In responding to Part 2, students will answer questions relating to any two of these three sections. The first section will comprise an extract from the Koran, followed by two questions. The second section will consist of a portion of classical Arabic verse, followed by two questions. The third section will consist of an extract from a work of modern Arabic prose, followed by 2 questions. In section two and three, one question will bear directly on the text presented, while the other question will be of a more contextual nature.

The full revised Leaving Certificate Arabic interim syllabus is available on <https://curriculumonline.ie/>.